



# Montgomery County Council

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*From the Office of Council President Valerie Ervin*

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**October 4, 2011**

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## **County Council President Valerie Ervin Encourages Students to 'Walk to School'** Walk to School Day 'Events on Oct. 5 Promote the Many Benefits of Walking and Biking

ROCKVILLE, Md., October 4, 2011—Montgomery County Council President Valerie Ervin, who chairs the Council's Education Committee, today said students and parents should embrace the theme of International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 5, and make walking or bicycling to school along safe routes a regular part of every school day.

The theme of this year's "International Walk to School Day is "Hike it, Bike it, I like it." These events are a way for schools and communities to build enthusiasm for walking to school, promote the benefits of walking and bicycling, and bring visibility to safety concerns.

Under Council President Ervin's leadership, the County has worked to encourage walking and bicycling by making significant infrastructure and pedestrian safety improvements near schools throughout the County. In District 5, which is represented by Councilmember Ervin, "Safe Routes to School" projects have been implemented near Crethaven, East Silver Spring, New Hampshire Estates, Oakland Terrace, Pine Crest and Rock Creek Forest elementary schools; Eastern and Newport Mill middle schools; and Einstein High School.

Council President Ervin is a former member of the Montgomery Board of Education, the Council's representative to the County's Pedestrian Safety initiative, and a champion for bicycling. Council President Ervin was also the sponsor of Expedited Bill 3-10, enacted in 2010, which made it easier to for the County to construct sidewalks in neighborhoods where they are needed and wanted by the community.

“Safe routes to schools and the health of our school children are priorities for me,” said Council President Ervin. “I continue to emphasize pedestrian infrastructure improvements to create walkable communities in our neighborhoods.”

Schools in Montgomery County have been participating in Walk to School Day since 1999.

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